

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 17, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk
Hailey Austin, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt a three-minute rule for presenters, witnesses, and members to speak. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 451 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 451, which requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider the potential fiscal impact on the local school system when reviewing a Type 2 charter school proposal.

Representative Hilferty offered amendments to delete the requirement that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education refer the charter proposal to the Legislative Audit Advisory Council for a recommendation as to the potential of a negative fiscal impact on the school district. Representative Hilferty offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 451.

Max Daigh, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 451.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, no address given, Metairie, LA, (225) 229-7100, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 451.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6745, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 451.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 451.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 451 with amendments, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 33 in support, and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1014 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 1014, which provides relative to equality and transparency in education and prohibits the inclusion of certain concepts related to race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 719 South Taylor Street, Covington, LA 70433, (240) 893-9501, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1014.

Jillian Pichon, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 633 University Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605, (337) 658-5047, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1014.

Katie Alexander, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1014.

Dr. Belinda Davis, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 202-2698, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Sarah Olivier, Louisiana Association of Educators, no address given, (337) 577-2161, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Mike McClanahan, NAACP Louisiana State Conference, 3313 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 343-1075, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress Action, 540 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Preston Castille, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 3038 Belle Cherie Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 317-3363, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Jacob Newsom, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 1688 Tudor Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 278-6582, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education / Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1014.

Jenna Chiasson, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 427-2056, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1014.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1014.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1014. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1014 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 52 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 46 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 747 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 747, which requires instruction on the "I Have a Dream" speech and prohibits including certain concepts regarding sex, race, ethnicity, and national origin in content standards, curricula, textbooks, and staff professional development programs.

Jillian Pichon, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 633 University Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605, (337) 658-5047, spoke in support of House Bill No. 747.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 719 South Taylor Street, Covington, LA 70433, (240) 893-9501, spoke in support of House Bill No. 747.

Rodney Braxton, SPLC Action Fund, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 747.

Dr. Belinda Davis, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 202-2698, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 747.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 747.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 747.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway Suite 1-D, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 747.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 747.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 747. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 747 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 51 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 46 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 787 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 787, which provides relative to training and curriculum in public schools.

Jillian Pichon, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 633 University Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605, (337) 658-5047, spoke in support of House Bill No. 787.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 719 South Taylor Street, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 787.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 787.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 787.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 787, to which Representative Charles Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 787 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Hilferty, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 29 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 46 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 920 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 920, which provides relative to student discipline.

Elliott Gomes, Legislative Youth Advisory Council, 97 Great Cypress Court, New Orleans, LA 70139, (504) 259-3972, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

Sean Myers, Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, P.O. Box 630, 630 South Broadway Street, Church Point, LA 70523, (359) 514-9201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

Chairman Harris announced that House Bill No. 829 by Representative Hughes, which provides relative to school discipline, had been voluntarily deferred due to time constraints.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Abigail Davis, Pearl River, Louisiana, 2021-2022 Louisiana FFA state parliamentarian, and Cecily Oliver, Kinder, Louisiana, presented a PowerPoint slide show on FFA's agricultural education programs entitled "Louisiana Agricultural Education: The Leader of Career and Technical Education", a paper copy of which is included in the committee records, labeled Exhibit A.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: